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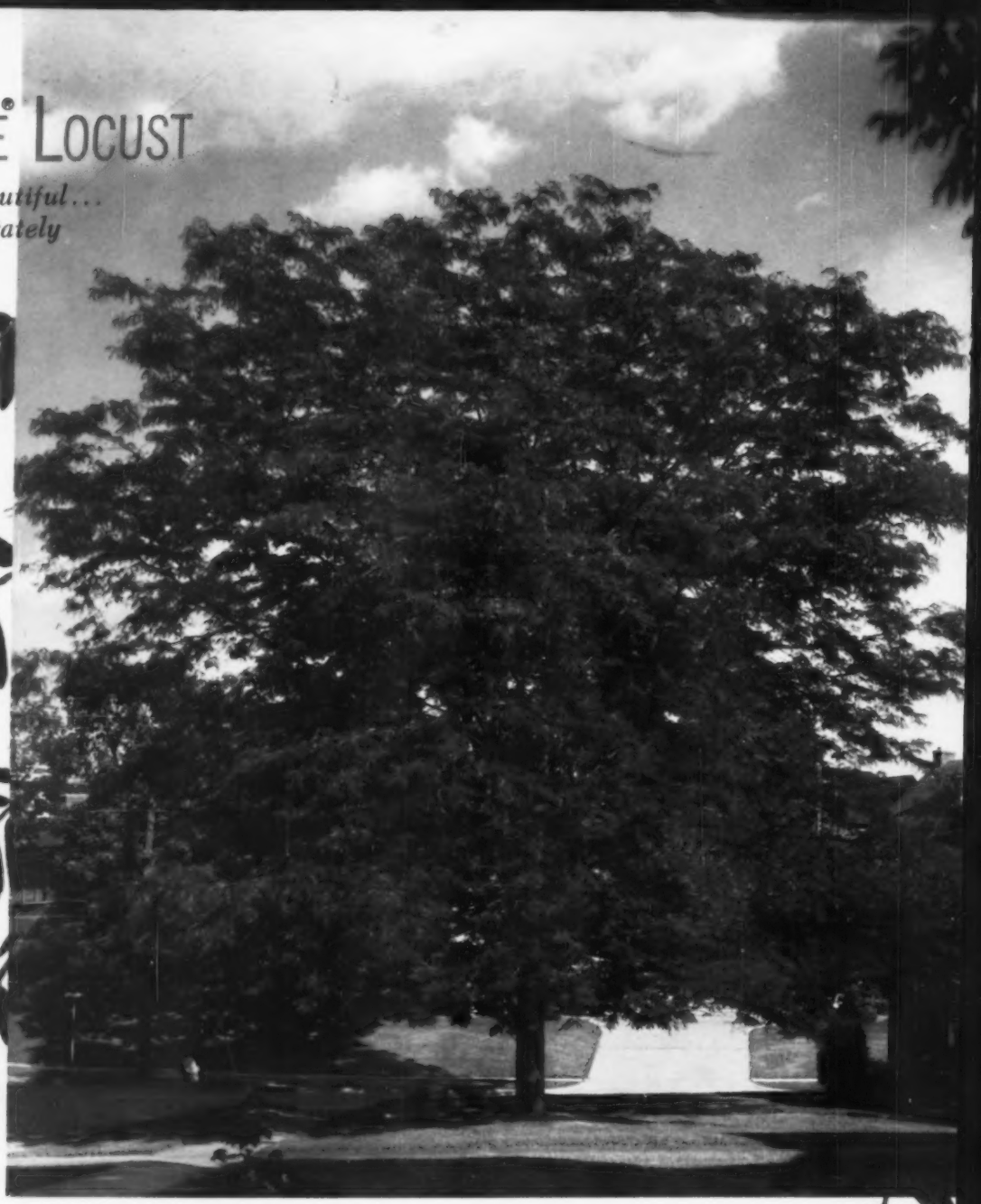

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America's Authentic Garden Magazine

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Horticulture is printed by The Rumford Press, Concord, New Hampshire. Micro-Color Lithography by W. A. Krueger Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Halftones by Franklin Engraving Co., Boston, Massachusetts.

HORTICULTURE: August 1959 • Volume XXXVII, No. 8 • Issued Monthly, Published at Horticultural Hall, Boston 15, Mass. Subscription Rates (in advance). One year $4.00. Canada $4.00. Foreign Countries, $5.00. Entered as second-class matter December 8, 1904, at the Post Office at Boston, Mass., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Additional entry at the Post Office in Concord, N. H. October 22, 1953. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage, authorized August 14, 1952. Address all correspondence relating to Subscriptions and Advertising to Horticulture, 300 Mass. Ave., Boston 15, Mass.

Member of Audit Bureau of Circulations

A. B. McClanahan & Co.—East Coast Advertising Rep., 295 Madison Ave., New York 17, New York, Walter R. Dimm—West Coast Advertising Rep., 3533 N.E. 21st Ave., Portland 12, Oregon. Russell B. Smith—Mid-West Advertising Rep., 205 West Wacker Dr., Chicago 6, Illinois.

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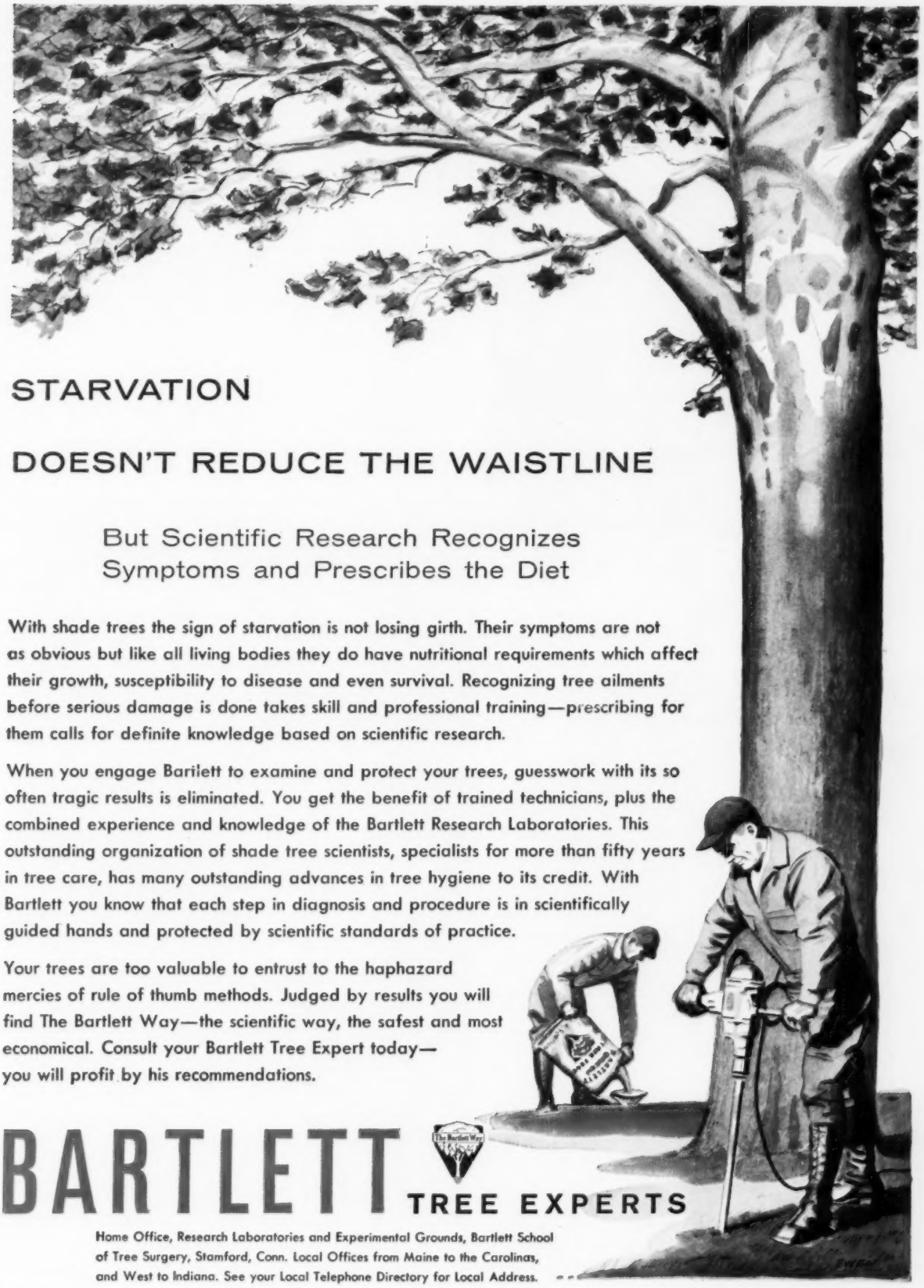

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Allium albopilosum

meet the

Allium aflatunense

AUTHOR'S PHOTOS

Allium ostrowskianum

FRED L. DELKIN, Bellevue, Wash.

aristocratic cousins of the LOWLY ONION

THE ALLIUMS lend a note of aristocracy to any flower garden. The largest genera of the lily family, they possess great diversity.

For instance, there is *Allium albopilosum*, which I call Star of Persia because it originated in that far land and is a loose, open ball of some 80 floral stars. The floral ball is from 10-12 inches in diameter, with a stem from two and a half to three feet all. The large basal and strap-shaped leaves soon dry and are carried away, but the stem and flower head remain, dry as the seeds form, become rigid and develop into a beautiful ornament.

Another member of this distinguished family is *A. elatum*. It is six inches in diameter on a three-foot stem, and is the only allium with glossy basal leaves. Quite similar, but with a head only four inches in diameter is *A. aflatunense*, while *A. rosenbachianum* is more rugged and somewhat coarser. It stands four feet high.

But tallest of all is *A. giganteum* which reaches five feet and from the size of its cone-shaped bulb, has been called Giant. The bulbs of its companions are also solid, but smaller and more disc-like and flattened on one side. None of the bulbs of these plants forms bulblets and they rarely divide. This means propagation is mostly from seeds, which take from three to four years to produce mature plants. The bulb of *A. giganteum* sends forth its flower spike in July, but the others blossom in May.

Belonging to the same group is a unique individual known as *A. karataviense*. Fifty per cent of its attractiveness is in the thick, broad, flat leaves lying on top of the ground. The floral ball is just above the foliage on a 15-inch stem and the flowers are grey instead of purple and lavender.

All these floral balls are long lived cut flowers. Their dried flower stems and heads are superb for winter bouquets. They are striking accent points in the perennial border, where no thought need be given to the support of their tall, sturdy stems.

There also are smaller alliums in a variety of colors. *A. azureum* has clear blue flowers. The stems are slender, two feet high and encased part way from the ground in onion-like foliage. It blooms in early June and makes a beautiful combination when planted behind yellow *A. moly*.

Another is A. *sphaerocephalum*, royal purple in color, with three-foot stems topped by a cone-shaped head. It blooms in July and has great attraction for bees. The flowers are used in florist shops as well as in the home. Both of these alliums propagate from underground bulblets, as well as from a few formed in the axils of the leaves.

A. flavum and *A. pulchellum* appear in bomb-like burstings when they bloom. Their flower heads break forth in July from long, narrow bud sheaths which remain attached to the stem at one end and arch over into long streamers. But the bursting effect comes from the tiny, round flowers on long pedicles reaching out in all directions. For a striking color combination try the two species together. The yellow flowers of *A. flavum* are borne on one and half-foot stems. *A. pulchellum* is light orchid and grows about two feet tall.

Two beautiful florists' flowers which develop from round, pea-sized bulbs are *A. cowani* and *A. neopolitanum grandiflorum*. They have flat umbels of attractive white flowers in early and late May respectively. The plants are alike except that *A. cowani* is larger and more robust in all its parts. Both can be grown in greenhouse or garden.

The Golden Garlic (*A. moly*) flowers in early June and is tolerant of shade. Plant it in drifts at the foot of delphiniums. Its flat umbels of yellow flowers are lifted about eight inches above the ground.

Many of the alliums are easily grown in shaded areas where one would never expect bulbs to bloom. *A. triquetrum* and *A. ursinum* are among these plants that brighten the shadows with their white flowers. The former bears a cluster of drooping white bells on foot-high, three-sided stems. The latter lifts fluffy clusters of tiny stars above its foliage.

For the rock garden, the *A. narcissiflorum* (also known as *A. pedemontanum*), with its deep pink bells on eight-inch stalks, has been described by an enthusiast as "the glory of its race, the choicest of all alliums for the rock garden." But one of the most intense blues found in the garden is *A. cyaneum*. *A. ostrowskianum* offers choice lavender pink clusters.

No gardener can afford not to meet these noble alliums. Easy to grow, most of them are quite hardy throughout the United States and thrive in light, fertile, sandy loam, but will also prosper in any garden soil. They are all fall planted and most perfer sunny locations.

Allium elatum

RUDBECKIAS bring sunlight

MARY C. SECKMAN,
Clarksburg, W. Va.

JACKSON & PERKINS

BURPEE

BLACK-EYED SUSAN the country Cinderella of the fields, has exchanged her rough and rustic gown for raiments gay enough for a Spanish fiesta. The lowly daisy of the meadows, with yellow petals and dusky center, has taken on a bold, striking and wide-awake look to become the gloriosa daisy of today—and all because she went to college! Or so claimed the originator, the late Dr. Albert F. Blakeslee, noted scientist who carried on extensive experiments while associated with Smith College.

More than 40 years ago, Dr. Blakeslee became interested in the possibilities of the native black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) and began collecting plants from different localities, then selecting the most promising to grow on for further study. He began hybridizing with the aim of increasing the flower size, vigor and color range. Then after selecting and re-selecting for many years, the best were treated with colchicine to produce tetraploid flowers of maximum size. When these had been re-selected the new flower was ready—the gloriosa daisy.

This new form of the old field daisy is vigorous, rugged and easy to grow. Though actually a perennial, it has been listed among the annuals since, if planted early, it flowers from seed the first year. The flowers are large, from five to seven inches across, with broad petals, well defined center markings and exceptionally bright colors. In anything other than a flower perhaps the colors might seem a little gaudy. In the gloriosa strain are bright golden yellows and rich mahoganies to vie with bicolors of bronze-gold, orange-gold and mahogany-bronze. The colors and combinations are varied and contrast agreeably with velvety, dusky centers. While the majority of the blooms are single there will be found both semi-singles and doubles among them. These daisies will flower through summer and until frost, if spent blooms are removed. Plants grow upright and to three feet.

Gloriosa daisies are ideal subjects for landscaping and are remarkably well suited to low, informal lines of the modern ranch type home and cottage. They also harmonize with textures and colors of a variety of building materials, notably those of rustic feeling—brown shingles, redwood, stucco and field stone. Gloriosas are most useful in beds, borders, as low screens, to soften ugly lines or foundations and in planters of concrete, stone and muted shades of brick. Gloriosas are most useful around summer camps since they require little care and will bloom through trying weather. They are best used in bold masses where the gay red-gold coloring and varied patterns are most effective. Gloriosa daisies should prove valuable for quick—and unusually inexpensive—effects around new homes.

The perennial rudbeckia, better known by the common name, coneflower, also has been glorified even without benefit of its country cousin's college education. Nurserymen and hybridists became interested in bringing the perennials up to date. They have been so improved that they are now fit to grace the finest garden and please the most exacting taste.

The old rudbeckias were too tall, the stems too spindly to withstand wind and rain. *Rudbeckia purpurea* gave the whole clan a bad name because of its drooping, dejected-looking petals and the unattractive purplish color which faded to an off shade of red.

The first of these modern hybrid perennial coneflowers, The King, had daisy-like flowers of rosy red, maroon toward the center, the petals broad and straight to the tips, and the cone prominent and dark. Even the orange brown seed pod was decorative. Vigorous plants produce up to 15 or 18 flowering stems on established clumps. The King had immediate acceptance as an unusually fine garden subject, and was and still is widely used by landscape architects.

White King was then introduced as the first known white form. While perhaps a shade less rugged than its predecessor it had the charm of white petals against a metallic green-bronze center cone with tiny orange flecks.

More recent newcomers include, Earliest of All, with rosy pink petals with deeper shading toward a dark center cone. This new variety is a firm, stiff plant which requires no staking and which grows only two and a half feet tall.

Goldsturm, developed in Europe, has greenish gold flowers with bronze-black cone. A new dwarf variety as been named Gold Quelle, and is said to be an improved double form in clear yellow.

High praise has been given a recent Dutch import, Gold Drop, which is low and sturdy with large double flowers of golden yellow. Then there is Golden Globe with perfect, globe-shaped flowers and miniature foliage.

Rudbeckias shown on this page are Gloriosa Daisy, bottom, White King, center, and The King, top. Cover is of wild species *R. hirta*.

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These colorful and excitingly scented Jillian Wallace lily hybrids are arranged with juniper and stachys leaves in a low pottery bowl. The fully opened trumpet is about seven inches across, almost flat, with slightly undulated perianth segments. The bloom resembles one of the hybrid's parents, *L. speciosum*. Color is rich tyrian rose, with white margins. It is spotted with deep crimson and slightly crested along the inner edges. Arrangement versatility of the variety is illustrated by the corsage at left.

The soft, delicate yellows of this Royal Gold hybrid lily create an arrangement of breath-taking beauty when contrasted with the deep red crabapple leaves and the pale green foliage of the lenten rose. Royal Gold is a recently developed hybrid of the popular and very hardy regal lily, *L. regale*. Its golden trumpets appear in the garden earlier than other trumpet-type lilies. It also is taller and more disease resistant than most. Another yellow trumpet of unusual beauty is the Golden Clarion lily strain. Arrangements by photographer Jeannette Grossman of Portland.

SANDY BEST, Georgetown, Ont.

forward march of hybrids builds brighter, stronger

LILIES FOR YOUR GARDEN

IN JULY of this year, the International Lily Conference, sponsored by the Royal Horticultural Society of England, met at London. Well-known botanists, plant breeders and lily enthusiasts from all parts of the world gathered to discuss the progress and development of this wonderful group of garden plants. They indeed had much to talk about, since the first International Conference had met more than 25 years ago, in 1933.

The world of lilies changes each season as new and stronger growing varieties march on to the garden stage. It is now possible for most flower lovers to have a four months' succession of lily bloom with judicious choice of varieties. The old species which formerly comprised the largest portion of a gardener's choice have now been complimented by several groups of exquisitely beautiful hybrids. Furthermore, these new lilies will thrive in average garden soils, with full sun or light shade, if they are given the good drainage which bulbous plants require.

The Aurelian hybrids, developed by crossing the reflexed species *L. henryi* with various trumpet lilies, has probably produced the most striking and vigorous group of new hybrids. Many of these are now reaching the market in large quantities and at reasonable prices. Royal Gold is a striking seedling strain of the regal lily that appears to come true in its color when grown from seed. The butter and gold yellow tones of the trumpet blooms are a welcome variation in the garden. Golden Clarion, another strain, somewhat later and taller than Royal Gold, was developed by Jan de Graaff of Oregon. From the tremendous variation of form and color in the Aurelian hybrids, breeders have selected types which more nearly resemble the species *henryi* in form and season of bloom. Thus, to continue your Aurelian season through late July and August try the Sunburst strain and its yellow selection, Golden Sunburst. These are tall, graceful lilies with reflexed and flaring blooms and are fine garden material.

New developments in the Aurelian hybrids this season include the striking de Graaff trumpet strains African Queen and Copper King. With deep bronze and gold shadings they lend a new and distinctive note. Dr. E. Frank Palmer, formerly director of the experimental station at Vineland Station, Ontario, has introduced some excellent Aurelians, and his latest beauty, Regina has won top awards at North American shows where it was exhibited.

Cool, white trumpet lilies have long been standard plant material. The Olympic hybrids, constantly selected for vigor and form, are the gardener's best bet in this field. Further diversification is in the excellent lime and chartreuse shades. Emerald Isle and the Emerald strain have come from de Graaff, and their cool tones and flaring trumpet blooms are most welcome. Pink-toned trumpets are constantly improving and the new Pink Ice strain is an excellent development which owes part of its vigor and color to Aurelian blood.

An exciting new group of lilies has been developed in recent years by Dr. C. F. Patterson of the University of Saskatchewan. These sturdy hybrids from the prairies can withstand extreme cold and drought conditions. They add new horizons with their pink and rose tones and reflexed blooms. Fuchsia Queen and Orchid Queen are two of the newer varieties. Rosalind and the tall, stately Rose Queen are other excellent types. Lemon Queen is an outward facing yellow with blooms that open in June. An excellent yellow strain has also been developed by the Oregon Bulb Farms and is generally known as the Citronella group of the Fiesta hybrids. In gold and lemon tones these nodding beauties are easily grown and serve as graceful cut flowers.

In recent years there has been renewed interest in growing the Japanese wildlings, *L. auratum, L. speciosum* and their hybrids. The gorgeous Jillian Wallace, developed by Roy Wallace of Victoria, Australia, has sparked much of this interest. The large richly-textured blooms generally appear somewhat between the seasons of the gold band lily and *speciosum* in late summer. New strains of *auratum* have recently appeared on the market. The Red Band lilies are variations of this brilliant species and the crimson coloration down each petal gives a most ravishing effect.

Catalog selections of lilies offered to gardeners this season contain the widest variety that the plant world has yet seen. Try to plant the bulbs with about two to four inches of soil on top, in a well-drained location. Dig the soil thoroughly and, if possible, put some bonemeal or good commercial fertilizer separated a few inches from the bulbs. We are finding that the new complete soluble fertilizers have a good effect when sprayed on lilies in growth or when watered into the ground. As with most plants, judicious food produces worthwhile results. The Aurelians, trumpets and some of the species appreciate a fair mulch the first winter after planting. With these few suggestions and the occasional use of an all-purpose garden spray, flower lovers will find a wealth of plant material in hybrid lilies.

here's how to grow

THERE'S NOTHING MYSTERIOUS about growing miniature trees or shrubs. We see countless examples of them all around us: the weed in the garden that is identical with the one growing along the roadside, except in size; the gnarled, stunted tree growing on a rocky cliff edge which is of the same species as the beautiful giant in the park. The plant in the fertile garden soil, given plenty of moisture and food, grows to maximum size and height. But the starved little plant along the dry, sterile road is dwarfed and misshapen because it has to live with the barest minimum of food and water.

The principle is the same in growing miniature trees for the patio or garden. The minimum of food that will allow your tree to stay alive and healthy, permitting it to grow slowly is the secret of keeping a tree dwarfed. Almost any small plant can be taken from its natural surroundings and put into a container and grown as a diminutive.

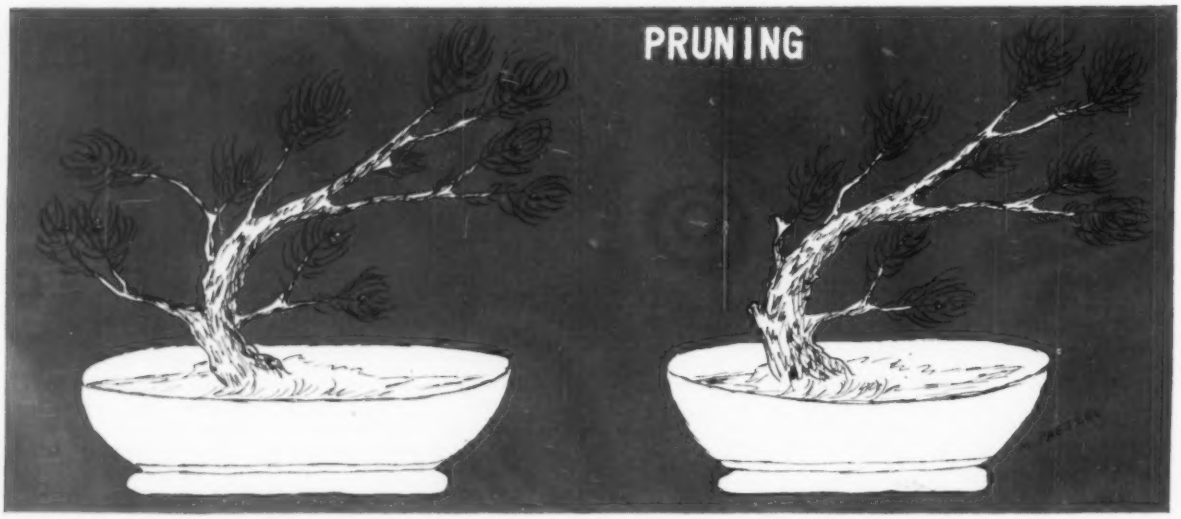
There are two ways you can obtain your little plant. Buy it or find and bring it home from the wilds yourself. You run less risk of losing your plant if you get it from a reliable dealer. It has been conditioned to living in a small space, and when it is transplanted very few of the roots are lost.

But if you wish to find your own little wilding and bring it home, then you will be put to more trouble and run greater risk of failure. Almost any area where trees or shrubs grow will be a happy hunting ground. Don't, however, look in fertile fields or along moist ditch banks. These environments produce big, lush growing plants that are not suitable for dwarfing. Look rather, in poor soil, rocky outcrops, dry hillsides, the edge of dunes and desert areas.

Here is where the first important "don't" comes along! Don't attempt to bring home a large tree or shrub, no matter how beautiful and interesting it is. Anything over six or eight inches high will very likely be killed by the shock of transplanting. Your best success will be with seedlings two or three years old—plants four or five inches high with several little branches. Bring some extra soil from the area home with you. It will be needed in the mixture the tree will be planted in. Be sure to keep your plant moist on the trip home and place it in its container on return home.

Always try to get your tree in fall or winter. Most growing things are dormant or partially so at this time and can be safely moved. Here is one of the advantages of buying your plant. The nursery tree in a can doesn't mind being moved any month of the year, and you can have the fun of experimenting any time the mood strikes you. Just be a little more careful and gentle in handling the roots if they are in growth.

You are probably wondering at this point about those gorgeous ceramic containers miniature trees are always planted in. Ceramic bowls and shallow



AUTHOR'S DRAWINGS

MINIATURE TREES

MARY PAETZEL, Grants Pass, Ore.

dishes in subdued colors probably make the most artistic containers for dwarf trees. But we have found plastic bowls to be the best for first efforts. Later, as your tree grows and assumes a more interesting shape you may want to invest in something more elegant. Tones of brown, green or gray are best. It is the tree you want the attention focused on, not the container.

Ordinary cereal bowls from the dime store are satisfactory. If you have a brace and bit or electric drill you can make the holes in the bottom for drainage. But we have found the easiest way is to heat up a small soldering iron and melt the holes through. It takes only a second with a good hot iron. I have even used a red-hot nail! However it is done—*don't ever forget to make those all important holes!* Three at least, more if the bowl is large.

The following steps will help you get your plant off to a happy start:

EQUIPMENT: Bowls of various sizes: A four inch bowl will accommodate a plant 3 to 4 in. tall; a six inch bowl will accommodate a plant 5 to 7 in. tall; an eight inch bowl will accommodate a plant 8 to 10 in. tall; a ten inch bowl will accommodate a plant 10 to 14 in. tall. Plastic, bronze or galvanized screening. Sand. Very fine gravel (⅛ to ¼ in.) Sieve or piece of screen for sifting soil.

Soil should be dry and fine. Use some of the soil you brought home with the plant. Proportions should be roughly 50% soil from the plant's habitat, 40% sand, 10% leaf mold or compost shredded very fine. All these ingredients should be dry as they will go through the sieve faster. Also, the dry soil is easier to work around the tiny roots without leaving air pockets. If your plant came from a nursery and had been in the can or pot for any length of time, don't use the old soil. Make a new mixture from 50% good garden loam, 50% sand. Flowering trees and shrubs require more organic material than do evergreens. For them 50% loam, 20% sand, 30% compost, leaf mold or peat moss.

Handle your little plant carefully. Shake as much soil off the roots as you can without injuring them. If the plant is dormant you can gently wash almost all the soil from the roots. But if they're growing and have new feeder roots it's best not to disturb them more than you have to. The longer roots and those that are broken or bent can be cut off with a pair of scissors. Many times roots have to be cut so the plant will fit down into the container. Spare the scissors as much as possible though, your little tree needs all the roots you can get into small place to become established.

Cover the holes in the bowl with the screen. Here is where plastic screening is best. It is soft and pliable and will lie flat even in a curved bowl. Next sprinkle a quarter inch layer of fine gravel over the screen and holes. Tamp down well,

See page 426

HUMIDITY, MILDEW, spider mites, heat and drought can be expected this month and with them the problem of keeping plants lush and happy is increased. Normal garden activities are lessened in August but some projects are essential if next year's garden is to be as pleasing as we hope.

Plant Perennial Seedlings

Perennial and biennial seedlings should be large enough to set in their permanent locations. Give thought to the plan for next year's color scheme before selecting the places for them. If the seed rows were carefully labelled as to color and kind, and the labels were transferred to the pots that now contain the seedlings, there will be no danger of clash of colors. Allow each plant adequate space for normal development so its florescence won't be crowded.

Bag Grapes

This is the month to bag grapes to protect them from marauding birds and insects. Boys, too, are more easily tempted to raid the vine if grapes look inviting. You can buy special bags which have twine attached to the openings. Or number two or four bags, either white or brown paper, can be used if the tops are fastened with heavy pins or finishing nails. Grapes ripen well inside the bags with little or no loss of fruit from storms.

Raspberry Fall Yield

This month everbearing raspberries, such as September, Indian Summer and St. Regis begin to form blossom heads at the ends of the current year's canes. Be careful in pruning them not to cut these heads or you'll forfeit the much appreciated fall fruit. Some raspberry enthusiasts cut the everbearers to the ground each spring, sacrificing the normal June crop and throwing all strength into the fall yield. With this treatment the berries produced by September and Indian Summer are unusually large and delicious.

Chaste Tree

This is the month when the chaste tree is at its glorious best. Too little known, *Vitex agnus-castus* should be used more often in gardens from New York south. The profuse spikes of lavender flowers create an aura over the shrub. These are followed by seed heads that are the delight of flower arrangers. The species is also fragrant.

Euonymus Scale

Euonymus scale (*Unaspis euonymi*) is closely related to oystershell scale in appearance. In addition to euonymus, it attacks lilac, bitter sweet, pachysandra and other plants. The first brood appears in late June and there may be two more during the year. From Massachusetts south the third brood in late August or early September does the greatest damage. A spray of malathion applied thoroughly in mid-September should clean it up.

Blueberries in Fall

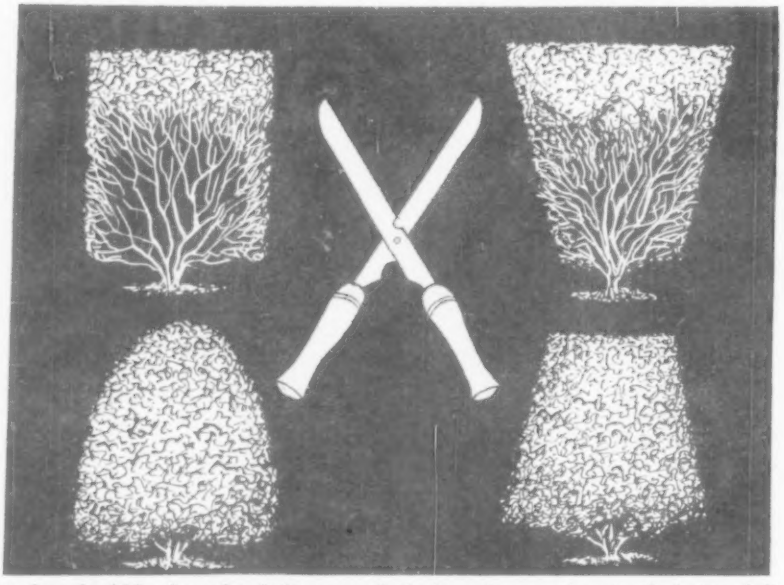
No gardener is satisfied with a short burst of blueberries in late June and July. And no gardener need be today. With the variety Herbert bearing in early August and Coville extending the picking time to Labor Day, it's possible to have tasty blueberries for more than two months. Both Herbert and Coville are of high quality, while the former produces the largest fruits known. Some are bigger around than five cent pieces, yet have top quality.

Azalea and Holly Cuttings

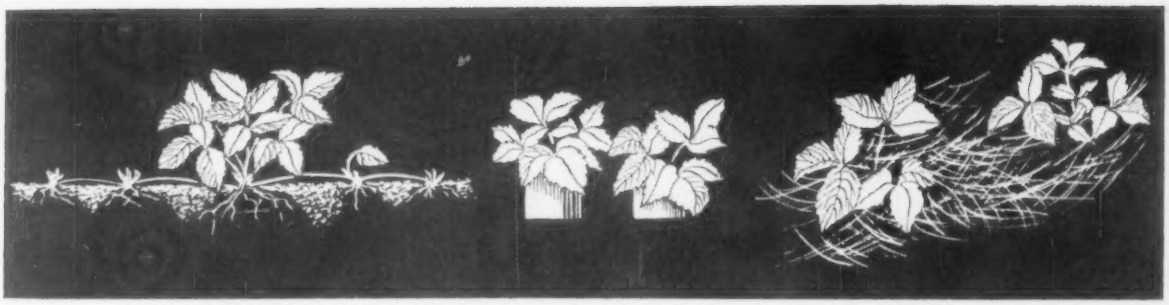
Early August is the latest that cuttings can be taken from azaleas if heavy blossom bud set is to be expected for the following year. Take two to four inches of the current year's wood in semi-hardened condition. Whether a blossom bud has been set or not is unimportant. Use a root inducing hormone with a rooting medium of sharp sand or sand and perlite. The same mixture also can be used for cuttings of evergreen hollies taken at this time. Properly handled, they will develop a branched root system by late September, ready for potting. Carry these over in a cold frame or greenhouse.

For Giant Dahlias

Those who grow dahlias from tubers are especially interested in the size of the blooms. To get mammoth flowers, set the tubers in rich, humusy, well drained soil. Watch for stem borers which are plentiful and destructive some years. If you find frass clinging to



Hedges should be sheared so light can reach the lower leaves, otherwise the bottom half of the hedge will lose foliage and become sparse. The hedge can be trimmed in several shapes while still keeping the essential light. Above, top shapes wrong. Lower, correct



Strawberry plants set in September become established before freezing weather arrives with food stored for berry production in the spring. To protect the roots, mulch directly after the ground freezes. One of the best materials to use is sawdust since it does not mat and protects the leaves and crown during the coldest winter. No heaving will result when properly mulched

a hole in the stem, inject carbon disulfide from an oil can. That will finish the borer. Disbudding is essential for large flowers. After the remaining center bud is well formed, two applications of soluble fertilizer at 15-day intervals, will be of benefit.

Lawn Rebuilding

Late August is the best time to make a new lawn or correct the weaknesses of an old one, in all areas where bluegrass or fescue is the lawn seed mixture base. Though the days might still be hot and dry, the nights are cool. This combination of warm days and cool nights encourages rapid growth of both bluegrass and fescue. So take advantage of these good conditions. If crabgrass has been killed, sow bluegrass seed on the dead crabgrass plants. They will protect it from birds and will keep the soil moist for quicker germination.

Lacebugs and Mites

Check trees, shrubs and bedding plants periodically for lacebugs and mites. Both thrive during normal August weather. Lacebugs can be seen on the underside of leaves, but mites are too small for most eyes to easily discern. A simple method of checking is, hold a sheet of white paper under a branch and tap the branch several times. If mites are present some will drop to the paper where they resemble moving specks. Malathion or a combination of it with methoxychlor directed at the underside of the leaves will kill.

Tuberous Begonia

If the soil in the tuberous begonia bed was carefully prepared, little additional care is needed. However, it's usually wise to apply soluble fertilizer twice during August to give them a lift so they'll do their flowering best before frost. Be sure they have adequate air circulation, otherwise mildew might be a serious and constant problem.

Keep Flowers Picked

The appearance of the garden will be much improved if fading flower heads are kept picked. Zinnias, marigolds, petunias, phlox and other annuals and perennials look bedraggled and unkempt and blooms become smaller if the spent flowers remain.

Madonna Lily Planting

August is an ideal time to plant madonna lilies. They are dormant this month but will soon put up rosettes of leaves, which should be well grown before frost arrives. Set them with the top of the bulb about an inch and a half below the soil surface. The planting soil should be fertile and well drained. For best results add lime to the soil before planting.

Strawberry Planting

There are many reasons for planting strawberries late this month. They become established before winter and are ready to produce a heavy crop the following spring. Select only vigorous stock that is free from red stele. Two rows 12 to 15 inches apart make a compact mass that yields well. Mulch the bed with salt hay, sawdust or straw for winter protection.

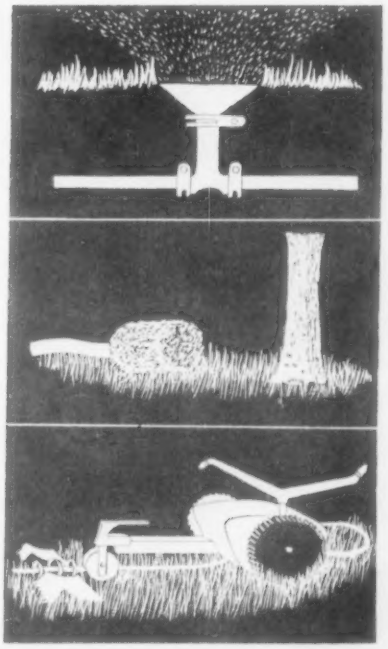
Herb Harvesting

Most of the herbs should be harvested as the plants begin to flower. If leaf herbs such as the mints, sage, thyme, rosemary have soil on the leaves, wash it off carefully and drain before hanging them to dry in a well ventilated, darkened room.

Parsley can be cut at any time after the plants have become established. Gather seed herbs such as caraway, anise and dill when changing color shows they are becoming ripe. Spread the seed heads on cloth to cure. Let them stand about a week before storing.

Water the Lawn

During August the days might be hot and uncomfortable but the nights are usually cool. Such a temperature combination encourages the bluegrasses and fescues to break the torpor induced by persistent heat. Watering will be necessary unless soaking rains have recently replenished the moisture so quickly evaporated by the persistent heat of the past weeks. But since this is the time of year when ponds and reservoirs are apt to be at their lowest ebb, every effort should be made not to be wasteful. Water late in the afternoon or very early in the morning. At those times a larger percentage of the water will reach the lawn and soil.



One or more of several water dispensers may be used. Both stationary and rotary sprinklers come in several designs. Water seepers restrict the water to a limited garden area

GEORGE H. PRING
St. Louis, Mo.

SOMETHING DRAMATICALLY new in terrace gardening will soon find its way onto American patios from Italy, where large pots—what might be called water planters—containing waterlilies or lotus are a new and exciting innovation.

Popularity of water planters in this country will be spurred by the growing use of patios and terraces in all sections of the country and by the long-time enthusiasm for waterlilies among perceptive gardeners.

There is good reason for this enthusiasm. Not only do waterlilies run the rainbow of color, but they offer both day and night blooming sorts as well as those with enchanting fragrance. The flowers of the hardy kinds seemingly float on the water surface, while those of the tropicals appear well above the water on stiff stems. There are both large and pygmy sizes.

Containers can be found or built in a variety of sizes and shapes. Everything from stone or clay bowls to Chinese woks and metal, plastic, waterproofed wood or freeform concrete can be utilized. If you make your own from waterproofed wood, use pine, white cedar or cypress, not redwood, which turns water black. Some planters might be mounted on castors so they can be moved into prominent positions during flowering periods and kept in a less important location before blooming. Some firms are now handling containers of adequate size, being 36, 46 or 60 inches in diameter. These containers are designed for artistic use on terrace or patio, bringing waters cool magic.

When you have decided on the type of water planter, you can choose from at least 30 kinds of hardy waterlilies and many more tropicals. All the standard waterlilies can be utilized even in the smallest of pools, but the pygmy types have the advantage of not becoming pot bound so rapidly.

Nymphaea tetragona is probably the hardiest as well as the smallest flowered species of the entire group, but it is an extremely shy propagator and therefore might not be available as readily as others. Its dainty white flowers are no larger than a quarter. This waterlily could even be grown in a standard sized aquarium in the home.

The two best pygmies for tub culture are Yellow Pygmy and Joan Pring. Sometimes both of them can be left outdoors and will survive severe winters, but we usually recommend taking them in. (Winter storage, incidentally, is simplified by the easily moved water

thing different on your patio or terrace —

BOWLS OF WATERLILIES

planter). Aurora is another gem with very small leaves and flowers. The color of the bloom changes with each successive day of opening. (The life of a waterlily bloom is three to four days).

The most outstanding of the diminutive tropical waterlilies is *Nymphaea colorata* from Africa. Its leaves grow in a compact mass while the numerous, small, violet-purple flowers arise from the leaf cluster. Several striking hybrids have been developed from this species. Bluette and Director Moore are two of these hybrids, both blue, while Patricia is a free-blooming pygmy with crimson flowers. Colors in the day-blooming tropicals include everything but true red, while the hardy lilies miss only the blue shades.

Nymphaeas are not the only aquatics for water planters. The sacred lotus or nelumbium is also attractive in them, especially if height is desired. Nelumbiums produce large flowers in shades of pink and yellow. There are also white forms. The shield-like leaves are large, carried on long petioles and, when it rains, the raindrops roll around on them like glistening jewels. The mature seedpods are often gilded and used in winter bouquets with dried foliage.

Shallow water plants like the dwarf cattail (*Typha minima*), the giant arrowhead (*Sagittaria montevidensis*), water poppy (*Aponogeton distachyus*), the water hyacinth, (*Eichhornia crassipes*), and pickerel weed, (*Pontederia cordata*) will prove quite ornamental. So will the water canna (*Thalia dealbata*), the Egyptian papyrus (*Cyperus papyrus*), and the common umbrella plant (*Cyperus alternifolius*). In a formal pool most of these plants look attractive in corners and center. In others they can be planted anywhere along the edge. Or try them in their own separate containers, for patio use.

The care and culture of aquatics poses no special problems. Once the pool is planted, there is no weeding, no hoeing, and no hand watering; only an occasional pruning of yellow or dead leaves and flowers.

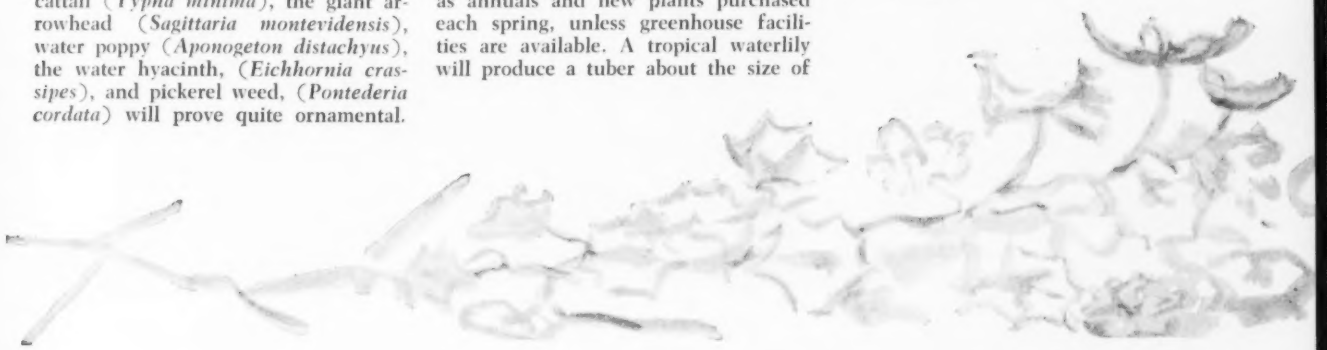
For the standard waterlilies, bushel-size boxes are needed, or the plants can be set directly in the soil where there is a mud bottom—they need about a foot of soil and a foot or slightly less of water. The pygmy waterlilies need smaller containers and about six inches of water above the crown. Any good garden loam is right for the plants but be sure to mix in some kind of complete fertilizer—top with pea gravel to keep water clear. Keep the pool in a sunny location for five or six hours daily for flowering plants.

Where freezing weather is unknown, tropicals may be left out from year to year. Otherwise, they should be treated as annuals and new plants purchased each spring, unless greenhouse facilities are available. A tropical waterlily will produce a tuber about the size of an acorn. The tuber can be easily removed, stored in moist sand in a mason jar in a cool place. About February the tuber can be potted in a small flower pot, placed in a heated aquarium, and plants started. When three to four floating leaves appear, pinch off the plant just above the tuber and below the young roots, and pot separately. The old tuber will produce additional plants if needed, at about three week intervals.

The time to plant tropical waterlilies outdoors depends on climate. In the Midwest, the second week of May usually finds water temperatures up to stay at about 70°. But the pool should be readied a few weeks ahead of actual planting time.

Hardy waterlilies can be left undisturbed for a few years if not allowed to freeze. Containers should be lowered in winter below freezing level; or the pool can be covered with boards and a layer of leaves or straw to prevent freezing of rootstocks.

Most of the other aquatics will also have to be taken in for the winter but ordinarily they lend themselves to division readily and only a few starts are needed for next year's crop. Some of them can be kept in aquariums, others in moist pots.



BETTY BRINHART, Hatfield, Mass.

it's easy

DIVIDE ORIENTAL POPPIES

THE ORIENTAL POPPY, perhaps the showiest of all perennials, is as easy to divide as it is beautiful. Its hairy finger-like leaves, that sometime reach 18 inches, remain a deep green from early spring until mid-summer whereupon they die to regrow again in early September, remaining green long after all other perennials have frozen and dried. Some of the stronger varieties even insist on blooming a second time.

There are 100 varieties of the Oriental poppy (*Papaver orientale*). Contrary to the implication of its name, it was found originally growing in the eastern Mediterranean region. All of them can be easily divided.

Before dividing, plan carefully. If placed just right in your flower bed or border, poppies can produce striking effects long to be admired and remembered. For instance, if you are dividing and replanting a bright red variety, try to place the new divisions against a deep green backround such as low-growing evergreens and surround them with white iris and white peonies which bloom at the same time.

Remember that most Oriental poppies are large plants with blooms that sometimes measure six to eight inches across. Give them plenty of room to avoid that crowded effect which so often ruins a garden.

Oriental poppies grow two and one-half to four feet tall, and produce five to 20 buds as large as English walnuts. Anyone who has a plant three or more years old that has bloomed well this year, can have as many as 15 new plants by dividing it.

Division is most successful during the dormant period between the last of July and the middle of August. At this time the plants have died back, and will suffer the least when uprooted. Although dividing is easy, caution must be exercised when taking up the plant. The more roots you can bring up intact, the more new plants.

Before starting work, cut off the dried foliage with hedge shears about an inch above ground level. Then take a garden spade and dig a trench all around the clump 12 inches deep, keeping at least eight inches away from it so none of the main roots, which reach out in all directions, are severed.

After the trench is dug, force a garden fork straight down into the trench as far as it will go. Poppy roots descend as far down as 18 to 20 inches. The more roots you get, the greater the number of new plants. Work the fork handle gently back and forth on all sides until the clump gives and comes out intact. Take it in your hands and shake it hard until all soil falls away from the roots. If the earth is wet and heavy, wash it off with the garden hose. Allow the roots to dry in the sun for a short while, then check them over carefully for new plant possibilities.

You will find that you have a plant with a monstrous root system, and several crowns consisting of dried stumps and fresh green shoots. Don't worry about injuring this new growth. The plant will not suffer.

see page 427

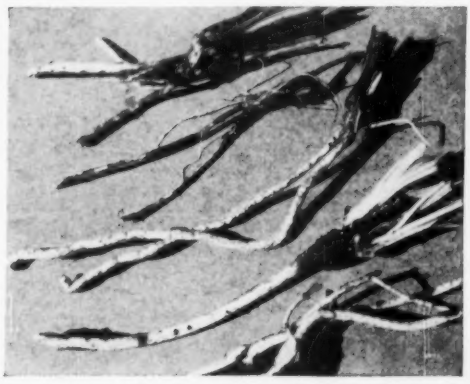
to

Before beginning to divide a clump of Oriental poppies (photo left) cut off dried foliage with sharp shears

Dig a trench around the poppy plant with a spade. Allow plenty of room so main root won't be severed

AUTHOR'S PHOTOS

Loosen poppy roots (left) with spading fork and lift them out carefully. Shake the roots free from all soil before dividing



Five good divisions made from root system. All except one are divisions of two roots or more. All will bloom in spring

Any side roots can be cut off flush with the main root and used as cuttings to form more plants. Note the small jar to the right filled with short root cuttings obtained from the large root tips and other smaller roots found in hole

Make sure crowns are three inches below soil surface. If stumps are long they can reach ground level, shown above

If soil is poor, dig a shallow ring around the foliage in early spring and fill with a small amount of 6-6-6 fertilizer. Cover with soil. Rains carry food to the plant roots

A three-year-old division that started from one large root division (left). Note the many buds and long leaves

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COMING EVENTS

July 31-Aug. 8. San Mateo, Calif. Floral Fiesta and County Fair, County Fair Grounds

Aug. 1-2. Seattle, Wash. Begonia Show, Seattle Begonia Society. Queen Anne Fieldhouse

Aug. 2-3. Wheeling, W. Va. Gladiolus Show, West Virginia Gladiolus Soc., Oglebay Park, Pine Room

Aug. 3-7. Blacksburg, Va. Garden Lovers' Short Course, Virginia Polytechnic Institute

Aug. 4-6. Blacksburg, Va. Course 1, Flower Show School, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs and Dept. of Horticulture, Virginia Polytechnic Institute

Aug. 6-16. Los Angeles, Calif. House & Garden Show, Exposition Park Memorial Sports Arena

Aug. 6. Worcester, Mass., Midsummer Exhibition, Worcester County Horticultural Soc., Horticultural Hall.

Aug. 9. Daytona Beach, Fla. Hibiscus Holiday, Halifax Chapter, American Hibiscus Society, Palm Room, Princess Issena Hotel

Aug 15. Elizabethtown, N. Y. Colonial Garden Day, Essex County Horticultural Society & Elizabethtown Garden Club, Colonial Garden

Aug. 15-16. Gearhart, Ore. Flower Show, Sow's Wester Garden Club, Gearhart School

Aug. 16-19. Jacksonville, Ill. Meeting, Northern Nut Growers Assoc., Illinois College

Aug. 17-21. Detroit, Mich. Conference, National Shade Tree Assoc., Statler Hotel

Aug. 19-20. Winnipeg, Man., Canada. International Flower Show, Winnipeg Horticultural Soc. & Winnipeg Glad. Soc., Civic Auditorium, Henderson Highway

Aug. 19-29. Montreal, Canada. International Botanical Congress, McGill University & University of Montreal

Aug. 20-21. San Francisco, Calif. Annual Flower Show, City Hall Rotunda

Aug. 22-23. Oakland, Calif. Festival of Flowers, Oakland Park Dept., New Garden Center, Lakeside Park

Aug. 25-27. Philadelphia. Conference National Assoc. of Gardeners, Phila. Branch, N.A.G., Hotel Warwick

Aug. 26-27. Boston. Exhibition of the Products of Children's Gardens, Massachusetts Horticultural Soc., Horticultural Hall

see page 435

what's CURRENT

A NEW CHEMICAL called Kuron, which has been used as a brush killer, has now been approved by the Federal Drug Administration as a control for aquatic weeds such as water milfoil, bladderwort, fanwort, algae, etc. It has low toxicity to mammals and fish which is important in an aquatic weed control.

Aquatic Weedkiller

Two new 2,4-D herbicides in granular form have been developed for control of water weeds, under the trade names Aqua-Killer 10 and Aqua-Killer 20. The figures represent the percentage by weight of 2, 4-D acid equivalent. Aqua-Killer 10 can be used in small ponds and pools. Formulated for water plants rooting in pond bottoms, these herbicides will not affect algae and other surface vegetation.

Chemicide, in contrast, has been formulated to control algae, scum and other surface vegetation, as well as insect larvae that remain on or near pool surface. There is no discernible effect on plankton and fish do not become choked in weeds, if Chemicide is injected carefully.

Swivel Wheel on Trimmer

A swivel wheel attachment for lawn trimmers is being offered. These wheels support the weight of the edging and trimming unit and save time in trimming slopes and terraces. They can be bought as an addition to Lawn Trimmer 'n' Edger, a specially designed lawn edging tool with a long handle which permits operation without bending over, having a side handle adjustable anywhere along the shaft for right and left-handed positions.

Combines Jobs

A jet operated lawn sprayer, designed to be attached to a rotary mower, is called a Dietz-Spray-Mow. It fertilizes, kills weeds or applies insecticides to the lawn. The device consists of a flexible plastic bag which attaches to the mower handle. A vinyl tube runs from the bag to two clog-proof jets which are attached to the underside of the mower blade housing. Liquid coming out of the two jets is atomized by the mower blades and sprayed on the lawn. With such an applicator there is no drift of the spray or fertilizer. All of it reaches the lawn.

Climbing Strawberry

A strawberry plant remarkable because of its ability to climb at least six feet in height and to produce a heavy crop of high quality berries is now being offered. Named Sonjana, it can be a delightful addition to the garden and an effective means of screening service areas or covering a wire fence. Since Sonjana's long runners grow upward rather than hang down, little space is needed for them. This is a perennial which will grow year after year, and should be in great demand.

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Japanese Book of Books

JAPANESE GARDENS FOR TODAY *by David H. Engel. Charles E. Tuttle Co., Rutland, Vt. 270 pp. $15.*

Here is the book of books on its subject. Replete with 17 color plates, 279 large black and white photographs and 70 drawings, the book brings the Japanese garden, both its overall and its detail, before the reader's eyes. The text is persuasively written, but also rich in practical detail. Background for the theme of the book is expressed in its excellent forward, by Richard Neutra—"We are and will remain in need of nature. But nature pure and simple, untouched nature, is, of course, a lost paradise to man." And landscape designer Engel finds in the Japanese garden: "a work of art, built on human scale, naturalistic in content but subjective in spirit," which supplies "a sense of repose and identification with nature's own harmony". The book closes with a listing and description of 237 plants hardy in the southern New England area which would be satisfactory in a Japanese garden.

Swimming Pool Problems

SWIMMING POOLS. *Sunset Book, Lane Publishing Co., Menlo Park, Calif. 122 pp. $1.95.*

Answers are given to all the questions of those planning to build a swimming pool. In addition to design, landscaping and construction, it also covers pool care, poolside entertaining and planting.

Old Roses

OLD ROSES FOR MODERN GARDENS *by Richard Thomson. D. Van Nostrand Co., Princeton, N. J. 154 pp. $7.50.*

More than a study of old roses, this is also a history of all roses—and it is a history understandable to the beginning rose fancier and the amateur gardener. Too often books outlining the development of the garden rose have suffered from too much technical terminology.

Going back to the old European and Oriental roses and the species, Mr. Thomson takes his readers through the China and tea roses to the perpetuals and hybrid teas common in our grandparents' gardens and in our gardens today. The text is supplemented by 26 full color halftones and 16 black and white photographs and by listings of old roses for special purposes, top 30 old roses and U.S. old rose dealers.

Growing Roses

HOW YOU CAN GROW BEAUTIFUL ROSES *edited by John Whiting. Arco Publishing, New York, N.Y. 143 pp. $2.50.*

Clear how-to-do photographs and a simple, straight forward text make of this book a valuable help to the beginning rose grower. All rose subjects are included.

Autumn Flowering Bulbs

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Our bulbs grown at our Holland farms are the very largest that are produced for sale. They give the maximum in results—many times up to 20 flowers from a single bulb.

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Miniature Trees

from page 415

then add a quarter to half inch layer of soil mix. Now set the little tree in and gently spread its roots out in all directions. Next sift soil lightly around roots. The plant should be set high in the container. The base of the trunk where the roots start should be even with or above the surface. Be sure there is no air space left at this point.

As you sift soil around the roots tap the container against the bench occasionally. This assures the soil particles working down into every space between the tiny roots. Tamp in and around larger roots with the fingers. Damp earth would be almost impossible to work into these small spaces. As soon as all the roots are covered, water the plant with a fine sprinkler. Do this a number of times for several days because fine dry soil is almost waterproof. As the soil settles, add more until the container is filled to within a half inch of the rim. I like to build a mound of soil up around the base of the trunk. This gives a more interesting effect.

Cold Protection

Keep your little plant out of the sun in summer, and protect it from freezing in winter, for a week or two after transplanting. After it becomes established it will be quite hardy and needs protection only in severe weather.

Miniature trees are decorative on patios, terraces, along fences, atop walls, in rockeries or just any place where a small container can be placed and seen to good advantage. Don't try to keep your trees in the house. They grow too long and spindly in this artificial setting. If you want to see them from indoors, build a shelf outside a sunny window and place them there. In summer an east or north exposure is best because they might be injured by the hot afternoon sun. In winter, move them to a south or west location. Be careful about putting them against a wall or fence where it might become excessively hot in summer. They aren't tender as many potted plants are, but they need more attention than trees in the open ground. If you place them in the rock garden or on the terrace their roots will grow through the holes and soon you will have big plants in little pots! To prevent this just slip a piece of tin, board or saucer under the bowl. Lift them occasionally to see that the roots are staying home.

You may shape your little tree any way you wish by pruning, pinching out

see opposite page

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or by the use of wire. Pruning is done in the spring and is employed to cut back long branches and in shaping the top. The tips of growing twigs and branches are pinched out to make the plant more compact and bushy. If it is a deciduous tree or shrub and the leaves seem too large for its size, pinch them off and newer ones will grow in their place, but they will be smaller. If they're still too large pinch them off again, and the next leaves will be still smaller.

Graceful curving branches can be shaped by wiring. The wire should be strong and flexible, but one that will hold its shape after bending. Be careful in wiring little branches because too sharp a bend can cut deep into tender bark. Wiring is best done in spring while the plant is soft and pliable. But watch wired plants carefully so they aren't strangled by the loops of wire.

In summer, water your tree thoroughly both morning and evening. Spray the water on foliage and branches. A fine drizzle spray is best. However, don't water foliage in hot sunshine. In desert areas shade the tree in the afternoon, and it might need water in the middle of the day also. Remember, that little bowl is a small container for the roots of a tree, no matter how tiny.

Don't overdo fertilizing. A miniature takes very small amounts of the essential nutrients, especially nitrogen. An organic fertilizer such as diluted liquid manure or fish emulsion is good. If you have a desert plant, add a small amount of lime. But forest trees and evergreens do best without it unless they come from alkali areas. One feeding in early spring and one or two more in summer should take care of your plant's needs for the year.

Oriental Poppy

from page 420

Since the poppy root system is not like the peony which automatically divides itself, it must be separated into sections with a sharp knife. Locate two large roots that are connected, then cut right down through the crown, or between two crowns. You will then have a healthy division that will produce two flowers next spring.

Every large root planted will have one bloom the following spring. A division of three roots will produce three buds, and so on. If you want more blooms quickly, take larger divisions. If you are in no hurry, the divisions might consist of only one large root with a bit of crown attached.

When the divisions have been made, cut all of the large roots back to about eight inches putting the discarded root tips in a wide-mouth container

see page 433

Wayside Gardens

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Something *Wonderful*

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Just see what you get in this outstanding new Fall Catalog. There are 152 color-filled pages, featuring over 1300 of the world's most outstanding new shrubs, roses, trees, rare bulbs and "Pedigreed" hardy plants. This magnificent catalog has everything you could possibly need or want for fall planting. It contains more that's new and worthwhile than all other catalogs combined. But that's not all! You also get the assurance of unexcelled Wayside quality made possible by the highest standards of growing and testing that are rigidly maintained in America's most carefully supervised nursery.

Louise de Coligny Exquisite flowers with satiny white perianth are enhanced by a neat, frilled, apricot-pink cup. A really beautiful new daffodil.

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New GOLDEN REGALE LILY

New* DUTCH IRIS, *Golden Lion

Without doubt, the best Dutch Iris to date. Perfectly beautiful ruffled flowers of sunshine yellow bear a striking resemblance to the orchid. When cut, flowers will last for a week or ten days in water. Be prepared for a surprise after you plant some of these bulbs, for they multiply with amazing rapidity. We know of no other bulb that is so lavish with its beauty yet so low in cost. A carefully planted clump will bloom for years without attention, supplying quantities of lovely blooms for indoors.

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EATING FLOWERS?

Did you ever taste a rose? If you have, you found that it tastes just as pretty as it looks. The Romans used roses lavishly for flavoring fine foods, and the Spartans were said to refuse wine not perfumed with their essence.

There was a day when roses, especially the damask rose, were used in every kitchen for making lively preserves, fruit tarts, ice cream, rose cocktails, rose petal jam and jelly, and many other dishes. But they weren't alone. Dessert tables were set with candied flowers spread on a plate overlaid with exquisitely slender dried lavender twigs, candied cowslip and borage flowers in one, violets and primroses on another. Still another would hold rose petals and gilliflowers. Then there were syrups of anchusa, clove, carnations, damask roses and violets in lovely flower colors.

Although today most of us limit ourselves to a few floral culinary uses and cut our flowers chiefly for decoration, we could gain much, both in pleasure and economy, by using a few flowers for gourmet creations.

For example, how about a few sunflower buds, "broiled upon a gridiron and eaten with oil and vinegar" (or Kraft Italian dressing, which combines oil and vinegar with rare herbs)? Or squash blossoms dipped in beaten egg and fried to a golden crisp in butter. Or stuff them with forcemeat like pimientos, and cook lightly.

Fancy dairies are bringing back butters churned with marigolds, roses, violets, orange or lemon blossoms and other herb-flowers. In floral cookery let the imagination take free reign. The idea isn't so strange after all, when we stop to think that broccoli and asparagus are only flowers of which the stalk is eaten, and cauliflower is all flower. Dandelion is a flower whose buds are eaten along with the greens. And what gourmet hasn't enjoyed the suave flavor of artichoke flowers? So let's get busy and toss up:

A Blue Violet Salad:

Start with a bowl of broad-leaved Batavian endive. Pour about four salad-spoonfuls of olive oil over some minced celery, parsley and chives. Add a dessert-spoonful of white vinegar, salt and pepper, and one tablespoon of Bordeaux. Detach the petals from two dozen blue violets. Add ⅔ of these to herb dressing mixture. Mix this with the endive, tossing lightly. Sprinkle remaining flower petals over the salad and place a half dozen whole violets in the center. (It was customary to serve *Lur Saluces* with this salad, with its subtle aroma of pineapple and floral fragrance).

Violet Jelly:

Throw a handful of fresh violets, without stems, into one pint boiling syrup. Cover, simmer ½ hour. Strain. Measure. Add ½ cup orange juice and sufficient gelatin to thicken. Chill in a mold.

Fern Salad:

Wash uncurled fern fronds in salted water; blanch, plunge into cold water and use like asparagus.

Rose Geranium Cream:

Bring three cups of cream to boiling point. Add six freshly picked rose geranium leaves. Cover closely and let stand until cold. Strain cream into a double boiler. Add three well-beaten egg yolks, sweeten to taste, cook and stir until cream begins to thicken. Remove before it comes to boiling point and serve ice cold.

Stuffed Nasturtiums:

Chop parsley, chervil, capers and small pickles separately, mix into shredded tuna fish and bind with mayonnaise to thickish paste. Nip the pistils and stalks from big, beautiful nasturtium flowers and stuff with a heaping teaspoonful of mixture, pressing each petal firmly in place to close the flower and conceal the stuffing. Place decoratively on a dish and cover with French dressing. Keep in refrigerator until needed for hors d'oeuvres; garnish with blue borage.

Nasturtium Cigarettes:

Make tuna relish as above, using any cold, cooked fish in substitution, if you wish. Add two minced anchovies and spread the mixture generously on big nasturtium leaves from which the stems have been clipped. Roll into thick cigarettes, tie tight with thread, cut off ends so they're all of a size and steep in a hot sauce of vinegar and white wine already boiled with a bay leaf, a chili pepper, a bit of thyme and a sprinkle of salt. Arrange on a plate, pour a few spoonfuls of olive oil over, and garnish with nasturtium flowers and chill. (Remove thread before serving.)

Cowslip Salad:

Cook and mold cowslip leaves like spinach. Chill, unmold and cover with mayonnaise. Garnish with slices of hard-cooked egg, cream cheese balls reddened with paprika, a few of velvety cowslip petals.

Pansy Crystals:

Choice petals of entire flowers
1 oz. gum arabic
1 cup water
1 tablespoon corn syrup
1 cup sugar

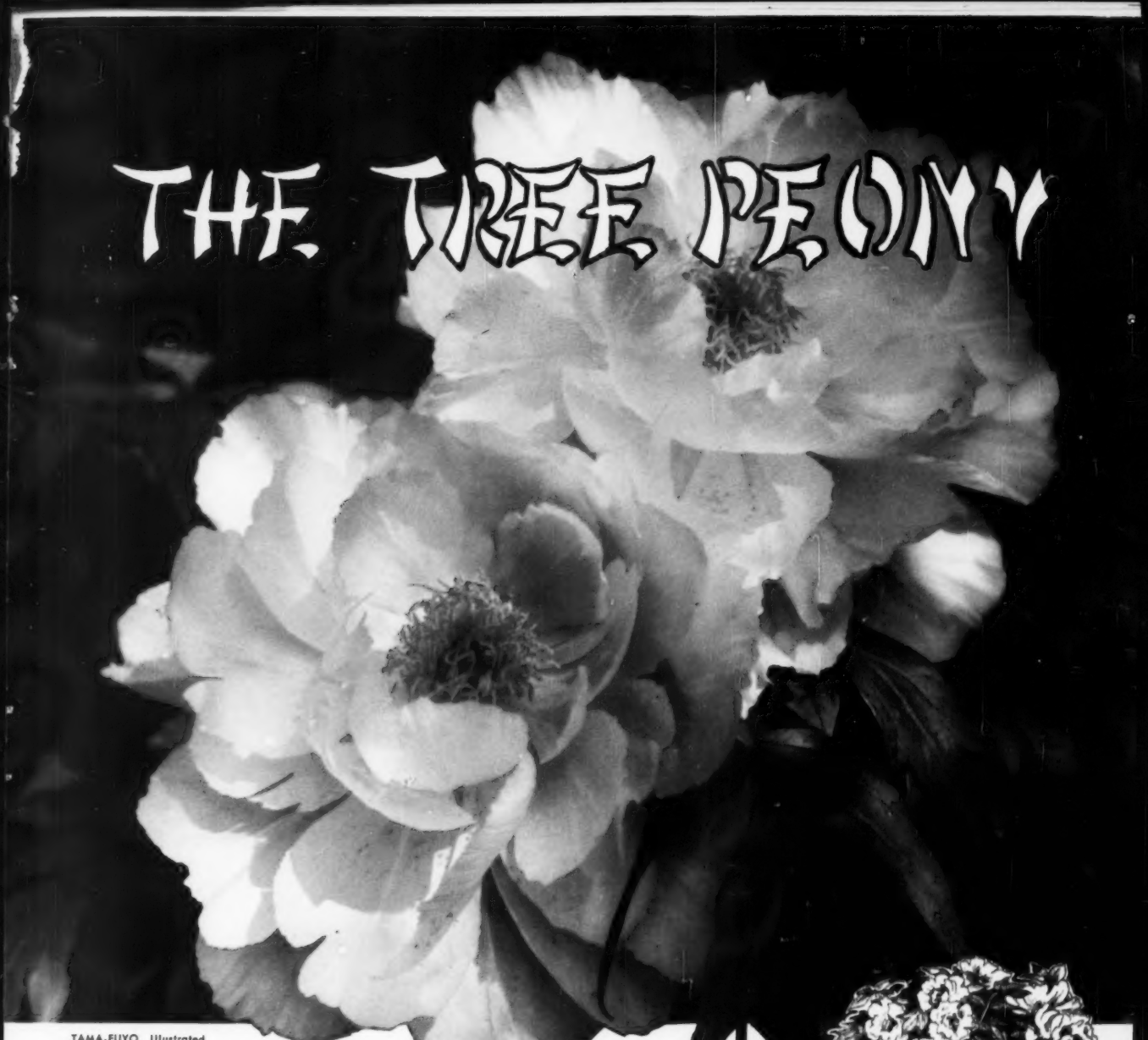
Carefully dry the petals of the flowers without bruising them. Dissolve the gum arabic in half a cup of water over hot water. Let it stand until cold. Then, using a soft brush, coat pansy petals with the mixture. Run a needle and thread through the stem of each flower and hang them up to dry so that the flowers do not touch each other. Mix corn syrup and sugar in ½ cup of water, bring to the boiling point, and cook to the soft-ball stage (234° F.). Let stand until cold; then dip the gum-arabic-coated flowers gently into the syrup, remove, sprinkle with fine granulated sugar, and place on waxed paper to dry. (Violets, rose petals or mint leaves may be substituted for pansies, if desired.)

Nasturtium Pickles:

Gather seed pods while green and tender, but after flowers have dried off, and leave on a bit of stem. Put in a weak brine and let lie six days, changing brine twice; then drain and pack into hot sterilized bottles. Prepare enough vinegar to cover, allowing to each pint six peppercorns, a bay leaf, one tablespoon salt, one blade mace, small bit of horseradish and one or

see page 432

THE TREE PEONY



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WHERE TO USE the Tree Peony: These plants can be used in a variety of locations: as a focal point in a design, accents to the house entrance, massive plantings in beds or sizable screens of evergreens, lilacs or ivy covered walls. Your imagination can produce many attractive and interesting pictures in your garden. The Tree Peony can be used to great advantage with a large assortment of evergreen shrubs and hillside plantings.

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JITSU-GETSU-NISHIKI (Finest Brocade), Purplish red, white tipped, nearly full double.
KAMADA-NISHIKI (Lilac Brocade), Lilac purple, white striped, full double, large.
OKINA-JISHI (Aged Lion), Pure white, full double, irregularly cut petals, large.
RIMPO (Bird of Rimpo), Large, full double, deep purple, yellow center.
TAMA-FUYO (Jewelled Lotus), Light pink, cup-shaped, nearly full, double.
YACHIYO-TSUBAKI (Long Hedge of Camellias), Pink, nearly full, double.
YAE-ZAKURA (The Host of the Cherry Blossom), Cerise, double, large.

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Autumn is tree peony planting time. Colors range from yellows, whites and ivories through pinks and red to deep purple. The shrub-like plant's graceful lines and delicately parted foliage have an oriental look. Requirements are full or partial sun, an annual bone meal feeding and protection from wind

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it's time now

to select a few

tree peonies for that

LOOK OF GARDEN LUXURY

THE TREE PEONY, aristocrat of the garden, has a dignity becoming a plant of ancient lineage and royal patronage. In its native land, China, where it has been known as the king of flowers from time immemorial, it has been the subject of painting and poetry for more than 1500 years.

The rulers of China for many centuries decreed that such regal flowers could be grown only by selected gardeners and in areas specifically designated on the royal grounds.

The tree peony (*Paeonia suffruticosa*) was brought to Japan by Buddhist monks between the fifth and eighth century. The Japanese took it to themselves and made it a focal plant in garden design.

In Japan the name was corrupted to "Botan" or "Bhotan" which has been continued as the Japanese name since Mikado Seimo in the eighth century.

For hundreds of years new colors and variation in florescence were the result of seedling selection or of natural mutations. In 1883 *P. lutea,* which has a single yellow flower, was discovered. This shrubby species has been crossed with *suffruticosa* to incorporate yellow into tree peony blooms and to give a greater variation in flower hues. Many semi-doubles and full double blooms of unusual tints were so produced.

In 1836, when Marshall P. Wilder was president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, he assembled a collection of more than 15 kinds of tree peonies. But interest in this country was slow to generate largely because of lack of knowledge of its culture.

Japan rather than China became the source of most of the tree peony varieties brought to this country. By 1942, many nurseries carried them and the popularity of the plant increased greatly.

During World War II land hungry Japan had to destroy most of the tree peony plantings and to give the land over to food production. But the resurgence of peony production since the end of the war has been phenominal. Several extensive test and display gardens are maintained, some containing as many as 300 varieties. The delicate coloring and impressive size of the flowers attract thousands of visitors daily.

On a recent trip to Japan to visit the peony test gardens and to arrange for shipment of selected varieties to this country, I was fascinated by the exactness with which Japanese gardens are designed with each item in the garden symbolic of life. Tree peonies are featured only with such compatible stock as wisteria and late flowering cherries.

Tree peonies are hardy plants, withstanding the long cold winters of most of the northern states with no damage or diminution of flowering. Since they have an annual dormant period, they do poorly in California and Florida.

Because they are exacting as to soil if they are to thrive, use a well drained, sandy loam, fortified with plant food and partially decayed vegetable matter. They will not do well in a clay soil nor where either soil or air drainage is poor. The pH should approach 7 but be on the acid side, so, periodically, make a light application of lime if soil tends to be strongly acid. In addition, apply a complete fertilizer or bone meal annually. No special winter protection is needed but a light mulch of an airy material reduces changes in soil temperature.

The tree peony is a woody shrub not an herbaceous perennial. So it will not die to the ground each fall. Being slow growing, prune only to cut out broken or injured branches. Most tree peonies will grow to be six feet tall with equal spread. They live for a hundred years or more and being free from serious insect and disease attack, require no special treatments.

It is fortunate that improved propagating and growing techniques have brought the price of this choice exotic within the reach of all gardeners.

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HOUSEPLANTS CAN WATER THEMSELVES

WHAT TO DO with house plants while the owners are away is the hardy perennial question. However, I discovered that it is actually possible to have the plants watered by the absentee, capillary method—possible and effective!

Place the plants on the kitchen counter, table or floor, even the bath tub can be used, and circle them more or less around a small stand. Place a generous container of water on the elevation, as the reservoir must be above the plants. Sun or shade will depend on the types of plants.

Tear inch-wide strips of muslin, long enough to reach from the bottom of the water container to the flower pot (one strip for each plant, as a rule). Wet the strips and nature will take over, drop by drop! For large pots wider strips should be used, or use more than one strip, while for a three-inch pot, a strip about a quarter of an inch wide may be enough for effective operation.

Be sure to wet the strips first and be sure the container is large enough for the reservoir. Test the system several times before going away. If the floor is utilized, rubber mats would be a protection for the hard wood finish.

After 18 days of the drop by drop treatment in midsummer, I found my plants in good condition in damp earth, and since all doors and windows were closed, there was no ventilation, no outside air. A 30-day test is now in progress and the only thing needed was a larger container as the reservoir.

Other effective means of protecting pot plants during your vacation holiday include slipping them into polyethylene bags or mulching the soil surfaces with damp peat moss. One friend left her African violets in the basement window well and, returning from two months abroad, was delighted to find the violets flourishing and covered with blooms. The light filtered through overhead grass and the humidity from the damp cement walls produced perfect conditions for the African gesneriad.

Eat Flowers?

from page 428

two tarragon leaves. Heat slowly to boiling point, simmer five minutes, strain and fill bottles to overflowing. Cork and seal. The pickles will be fine in three months. (These may be used like capers. A few tablespoons added to a drawn butter sauce is a delicious accompaniment to mutton or lamb, and a tablespoon of the pickles, chopped fine, added to a cup of whipped cream and seasoned to taste with salt and pepper, is perfect with fried fish.)

BOTANICAL and SPECIES
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These gaily-colored gems for border foreground and rockery, flower Apr. 5 to 20. Permanent, once established.

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CESAR FRANCK. 8 in. Gorgeous scarlet, edged clear yellow. Doz., $2.10; 100, $15.00.
GAIETY. 6 in. Charming dwarf white, outside striped red. Doz. $2.10; 100, $15.00.
MARJOLETTI. 14 in. Lovely pale yellow, mottled scarlet. Doz., $1.30; 100, $9.00.
SAXTILIS. 7 in. Beautiful lavender with yellow base. Doz., $1.60; 100, $11.75.
SYLVESTRIS. 15 in. Fragrant yellow, often two to a stem. Doz., $1.50; 100, $10.50.
TURKESTANICA. 8 in. Stems carry 4 to 6 white starry flowers, shaded yellow inside. Doz., $1.25; 100, $8.50.

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Oriental Poppy

from page 427

lying them head up so they won't bleed. Poppy roots contain a heavy fluid that seeps out when cut and laid flat.

After all roots have been shortened, go back and cut these tips into three to four inch sections. Each section must have a dormant bud near its top. New leaves sprout from this bud when growth begins. A root without a top bud will never produce a new plant.

For extra cuttings feel around in the hole with your fingers and pull up any roots you find. No matter how thin, these roots can also be cut into short lengths with top buds and placed upright in the container.

Transplant the large divisions to a new location, where Oriental poppies haven't been grown before. Use a new location because the old area will contain some roots that will produce plants which would undo your color combinations and crowd your new plants.

When transplanting, dig a hole several inches deeper than the length of the longest root. When the plant is standing upright, the crown should be at least two inches below the surface. Work soil in around the roots with your fingers, then firm it down with your fist. When the hole is half filled, pour in a quart of water. Let settle, then fill the remainder of the hole with soil. Water again lightly, then apply a two inch mulch.

Cover Crowns

Don't worry about the crown being covered with soil. The plant demands it. Soon crisp, green leaves will push through the mulch and the new plant will develop before winter sets in. In early spring, the foliage will again appear and you will soon be rewarded with blooms.

If the soil is sandy or clayey, mix organic matter or fertilizer into an area 36 inches in diameter. The roots are strong and will go in search of the food. A top dressing of fertilizer can be given in early spring on poor soils to increase bud size. Use a 6-6-6 formula.

After all large divisions have been planted, dig a shallow trench in some remote spot in the garden, then place the small four-inch root sections in it, bud end up. Cover with six inches of earth, pack, water and mulch with grass clippings. No growth will appear until the following spring, but by fall, good sized plants suitable for transplanting, will result.

If you can wait, however, don't transplant for at least two years. This will give the plants a chance to become robust before being disturbed.

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GLADIOLUS SOCIETY

Gladiolus Show

August 15 — 2–9 P.M.

August 16 — 10 A.M.–9 P.M.

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Exhibition of Products
of Children's Gardens

August 26 — 2–6 P.M.

August 27 — 1–6 P.M.

MICHIGAN
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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MRS. LLOYD L. HUGHES
Executive Secretary

"It's Time to Join
The Horticultural Society"

The 29 Fall Fruit and Vegetable Show of Flint, Michigan is to be held in the I. M. A. Auditorium, 815 E. 2nd Avenue, Saturday, September 12 and Sunday, September 13, and has as its theme "Our Gardeners' Dream." There is no admission charge but a free will offering will be accepted.

This Society has engaged H. L. R. Chapman to conduct our "Plant Doctor Clinic" throughout the Show. Hours Saturday: 4:30 to 10:00 P.M.; Sunday: 9:30 A.M. to 9:30 P.M.

★ ★ ★

Persons interested in exhibiting in the Harvest Festival, Sept. 15-16-17, will please write or telephone the Secretary for schedules.

★ ★ ★

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Clippings from CLUBS and SOCIETIES

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society recently announced the appointment of Carlton B. Lees of Mansfield, Ohio, as executive director. The new position was created to enable the society to expand its activities and bring more horticultural service and garden information to its members and to the greater Philadelphia community. Mr. Lees was with the Kingwood Center in Mansfield, Ohio for five and one-half years. He will assume his duties on August 1.

New Appointment

Dr. John C. Warner, president, Carnegie Institute of Technology, has announced the appointment of George Hill Mathewson Lawrence as director of the new Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library. The appointment will become effective in the fall of 1960 when the library is expected to be completed.

Dr. Lawrence comes to Carnegie from Cornell University to direct this unique library, situated in a penthouse atop the Hunt Library.

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

389 Suburban Station Building, Philadelphia 3, Pa.

MR. GEORGE R. CLARK, *President*

MRS. E. PAGE ALLINSON, *Secretary* DR. J. FRANKLIN STYER, *Treasurer*

Daffodil Show

This show was held when the National Daffodil Society met in Philadelphia. Sponsored by The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society with the cooperation of Huntingdon Valley Garden Club and Four Counties Garden Club, the show was held April 23rd and 24th at the Philadelphia National Bank and was attended by approximately 2,000 visitors. There were 392 horticultural exhibits in competition and 36 arrangement exhibits in competition and 6 commercial exhibits and a library exhibit.

The Gold Medal Certificate of The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society for the best entry of a single stem flower was won by Mr. Wells Knieram of Cleveland, Ohio. The White Ribbon of the American Daffodil Society for the best entry of three flowers of one variety, and The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania Award of Merit for the highest scoring blue ribbon winner were awarded to Mrs. Wells Knieram.

The Green Ribbon of the American Daffodil Society for the best collection of 12 named varieties, one stem each, representing not fewer than four divisions was awarded to Mrs. Merton S. Yerger, Jr. of Downington. The Daffodil Show Sweepstakes Bowl was awarded to Mrs. J. Pancoast Reath of Wayne. Information on growing daffodils was given to visitors and can still be procured at the office.

Azalea Demonstration and Field Trip

Sponsored by the Exhibition Committee of The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society with the cooperation of The Morris Arboretum of The University of Pennsylvania and directed by Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr., it was held May 16.

The arboretum staff guided tours through the many azalea plantings and Miss Mary Milton, propagator at the arboretum, gave several lectures on the propagation of azaleas. Over 100 people attended. This was a splendid opportunity for our members to learn more about the propagation and culture of azaleas.

Now Is the Time to Order Peonies

Some of the worthwhile newer varieties of *Officinalis Hybrids* are —Janice, pink; Postillion, red; early semi-double. Singles—Seashell and Helen, pink; Arcturus, dark red; White Perfection, white. Japanese—Toro-no-maki, white; Hari-ai-nin, red. Doubles—Tempest, red; Tokalon and Mary Auten, white; Matilde Lewis, very dark red; Eloise, pink.

For a satisfactory, easily grown plant, a peony is highly recommended. The early blooming varieties are better in the Philadelphia district. Seashell and Janice are especially recommended.

GLADIOLUS SHOWS

Aug. 5. Yakima, Wash.
St. Paul's Cafeteria
Aug. 6-7. Long Island, N. Y.
Roosevelt Field Concourse
Aug. 7-8. Victoria, B. C., Canada.
Crystal Garden
Aug. 8. Framingham, Mass.
Shoppers' World
Aug. 8. East Lansing, Mich.
Michigan State University
Aug. 8-9. Mill City, Ore.
Aug. 8-9. Wabash, Ind.
Honeywell Memorial Center
Aug. 8-9. Appleton, Wis.
Masonic Temple
Aug. 8-9. Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
Hawkeye Downs
Aug. 9. Oaklawn, R. I.
Oaklawn Grange Hall
Aug. 9. Storrs, Conn.
University of Connecticut
Aug. 9. Denver, Col.
U.S. National Bank Bldg.
Aug. 9. Saratoga Springs, N. Y.
Canfield Casino
Aug. 9. Washington, Mo.
Fair Grounds
Aug. 9-10. Minneapolis, Minn.
Northwestern National Bank Bldg.
Aug. 11-12. Montreal, Canada.
R.M.R. Armory
Aug. 12-13. New Brunswick, N. J.
Rutgers University
Aug. 12-13. Regina, Sask., Canada.
Grain Show Bldg.
Aug. 15. Verdun, Que., Canada.
Woodland School
Aug. 15. Cold Spring, N. Y.
Methodist Church Parish Hall
Aug. 15-16. Boston, Mass.
Horticultural Hall
Aug. 20. Worcester, Mass.
Horticultural Hall
Aug. 21-22. Ottawa, Canada.
Exhibition Grounds
Aug. 21-22. Elmira, N. Y.
Chemung Co. Fair Grounds
Aug. 21-22. Cleveland, Ohio.
Berea Fair
Aug. 22. Vancouver, B. C., Canada.
Pacific National Exhibition
Aug. 22. Quebec, Canada.
Legion Hall
Aug. 22. Upton, Mass.
Legion Hall
Aug. 22-23. Wasau, Wis.
County Fair Grounds
Aug. 22-23. Chicago, Ill.
Garfield Park Conservatory
Aug. 23. Randolph Center, Vt.
Judd Hall
Aug. 24-25. Grand Forks, N. D.
University of N. D.
Aug. 27. Orono, Me.
Aug. 28-29. Logan, Utah.
Cache Co. Fair Grounds
Aug. 28-29. Calgary, Canada.
Jubilee Auditorium
Aug. 28-29. Quebec, Canada.
St. Hyacinthe Armory
Aug. 28-30. Escanaba, Mich.
Upper Peninsula Fair Grounds
Aug. 29-30. Manitowoc, Wis.
County Fair Grounds
Aug. 29-30. Morrisville, N. Y.
Agricultural & Technical Institute
Aug. 29-30. East Lansing, Mich.
State University
Aug. 29-30. Two Rivers, Wis.
Armory Building
Aug. 30. Rochester, N. Y.
Bausch Museum
Aug. 30. Worcester, Mass.
Norton Field House
Sept. 5. Blue Hill, Me.
Blue Hill Fair

DAHLIA SHOWS

Aug. 1-2. San Diego, Calif.
Balboa Park
Aug. 22-23. Everett, Wash.
Forest Park
Aug. 22-23. Oakland, Calif.
Lakeside Garden Center
Aug. 29-30. Seattle, Wash.
Green Lake Field House
Sept. 3. Worcester, Mass.
Horticultural Hall, Elm St.
Sept. 5-6. Tacoma, Wash.
Norman Hall
Sept. 5-6. Milwaukee, Wis.
Sept. 5-6. Wayne, N. J.
Grange Hall, Hamburg Twp.
Sept. 6-7. Minneapolis, Minn.
State Fair Grounds
Sept. 6-7. Madison, Wis.
Community Center
Sept. 9-10. Waterbury, Conn.
Waterbury Shopping Center

Coming Events

from page 422

Aug. 26-30. Portland, Ore. Western Orchid Congress, Orchid Digest & Oregon Orchid Soc., New Heathman Hotel

Aug. 28-29. University Park, Pa. Horticultural Science Tour, American Soc. for Horticultural Science, Dept. of Hort. Pennsylvania State University

Aug. 29-30. Lenox, Mass. Flower Show, Lenox Horticultural Soc., Town Hall

Aug. 29-30. Newport, R. I. Festival of Flowers, Newport Horticultural Society and Newport County Garden Clubs, Art Association Bldg.

Aug. 30. Oakland, Calif. Fuchsia Festival, American Fuchsia Society, Garden Center, Lakeside Park

Aug. 30. Columbus, Ohio. Special Rose Show, Ohio State Fairgrounds, Horticulture Bldg.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Carlton B. Lees has been added to the staff of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and will assume his duties there in August.

Mr. Lees graduated in 1950 from the University of Connecticut. He is well versed in the different aspects of Horticulture and has worked at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and the Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture at Cornell University.

He comes to the Society from Kingwood Center, Ohio.

A more complete biography will be found elsewhere in this issue.

•

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WHEN NURSERIES introduced varieties of Japanese taxus, commonly called Japanese yew, it was considered an evergreen not only beautiful in form and with rich foliage but also hardy and completely pest free.

Within a few years, however, mealy bug began to attack them. This pest is easily eliminated by spraying with a nicotine sulphate solution containing dissolved soap as a spreader, or with malathion insecticide.

A worse pest is taxus scale. To discover scale, examine the inside branches for bare, dead twigs. These are usually proof that the Japanese scale has been sucking the plant juices. In spring small, flat, round, brownish-amber scales will appear on young twigs. To control, spray them with nicotine sulphate. A three percent dormant spray of miscible oil is also advisable even before the scale is seen, applied when the temperature is 45° or over.

Both cyclamen mite and European red mite commonly attack yews. Because of their numbers, the persistant drain on the plant juices causes discoloration and eventually dying of the leaves. The presence of either pest is indicated by the fine gray web which the mites spin over the needles and in which they live and breed. A spray of one of the miticides, such as aramite or malathion, applied when the web or discoloration is first noticed will normally control them, however if the infestation is heavy a second spray of the same material should be applied after 10 days.

Black vine weevil, which attacks the roots, is most destructive because its presence is not apparent until the plant begins to lose foliage. Careful examination of the leaves will disclose the semi-circular holes nipped out by the adults. Chlordane at 10 pounds to 1000 square feet broadcast under the yew will help to control the weevil.

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VARIETY AND HEALTH

PHLOX, "flower of flame", shows its widest array of brilliant colors in the species *paniculata*—the garden phlox of the summer months. An American native, growing in woods from Pennsylvania to Florida and west to Kansas, it has, in the wild, flowers of white, pinkish-lavender and reddish-purple (often called magenta).

Very early in this country's history, specimens of this wild beauty were sent to England, probably from the Virginia colony, where phlox was called sawpit flower. *Phlox paniculata* is listed in England as early as 1700. It is not surprising, then, to know that phlox is one of several American natives that has been hybridized chiefly by Britons and Europeans.

It wasn't until about 1850 that phlox was considered seriously by American plantsmen and gardeners. While a few varieties of some merit appeared in America during the next 30 years, phlox colors remained much the same, though petal size was enlarged and petal shape improved. When Lemoine in France and Pfitzer in Germany started working with *Phlox paniculata,* really fine varieties began to appear in various colors.

Nowadays the new varieties are coming chiefly from England, hybridized by such men as B. H. B. Symons-Jeune and H. J. Jones and from The Netherlands, hybridized by H. Ruys.

These newcomers have been bred for big florets, huge bloom heads, fine colors and, what is more important to most gardeners, sturdy, disease resistant plants. Some varieties like Charles Curtis, Harvest Fire, Marie Louise and American Beauty are particularly likely to be immune to mildew, a disease that attacks phlox.

When selecting varieties to bloom in your garden, in addition to disease resistance, consider blooming time and height. There are early-flowering, midseason and late varieties, so choose some of each for all-summer bloom. Select tall phlox for background, dwarf for foreground.

Think, too, of color schemes before you buy. The white-flowered phloxes combine, of course, with blooms of any color. The so-called blues keep their color best and look prettiest when grown in shade, either alone or with white-flowered varieties.

As to the myriad reds, the gardener should decide at the outset that he will plant phloxes that have colorings on the orange side of red *or* on the blue side of red and stick to this decision. All shades on one side or the other will blend—it is only when one tries to combine orange reds and blue reds that the color scheme becomes a color scream. Something to be avoided.

As mentioned before, some varieties are resistant to mildew, the prime disease of phlox; some are not. Mildew can be avoided by planting phlox in a breezy spot where dampness does not collect and allowing ample room around each plant for air circulation.

If, however, your plants show the slightest sign of grey-white, felty coating, use karathane immediately.

The other phlox trouble, often thought of as a disease, is blight or rust. Lower leaves turn brown and die. This is, however, due to the fact that old stems haven't enough conducting tissues to transfer nutrients and water. Cut old stems at ground level in the fall and burn them to control this trouble.

When leaves turn yellow or brownish, no disease is at fault. Red spider mites are at work. These are not insects and cannot, therefore, be controlled by insecticides. Use a miticide or use malathion and they'll soon disappear. Spots on phlox leaves, stems wilting or distorted flowers are the work of one or another of the insects which attack phlox. Malathion and methoxychlor will control all of them.

Despite troubles, and your plants won't have most of them, phlox is one of our most gorgeous perennials. Not only that, it blooms when good color is scarce. But the best is yet to come.

During September, 1956, my husband and I were in Europe. At Wisley, trial garden of the Royal Horticultural Society, I saw the phlox trials which, according to my guide, included varieties from England's foremost hybridizers. The florets were huge, the heads immense and the colors ranged deeper and wider than in phlox varieties we now have in this country.

Later, while in The Netherlands, Mr. Ruys, who owns Royal Moerheim nursery, showed us his bed of seedling phlox. It was a dull, chilly day with a leaden sky, but the phlox colors were dazzling even without sunlight. Wonderful varieties will be coming from this breeder. So much impressed was I by Mr. Ruys' phlox that, when we were on the plane flying home, and my husband teasingly asked "of all the plants you saw, which would you most like to have in our garden?", I answered unhesitatingly, "Mr. Ruys' phlox bed".

BEST PHLOX CHECKLIST

WHITE: White Admiral, World Peace, Marie Louise and Prime Minister (red eye in center). PINK: Elizabeth Arden (red eye), Dresden China, American Beauty, Pinkette, Rosa Spier (bright crimson eye), Border Queen. SALMON PINK: Sir John Falstaff (probably the largest-flowered phlox of all), Duchess of Gloucester, Daily Sketch (crimson eye), Lillian. SALMON: General Stipp (lighter eye). BLUE: Progress (light blue, deeper purple eye), Blue Boy (dark blue), Rosy Blue (lavender blue, pink undertones). PURPLE: Purple Heart, Purple King, Royal Purple. PLUM RED: San Antonio, WINE RED: General Petain. ORANGE-RED: Brigadier, Africa (blood red eye), Harvest Fire, Leo Schlageter. CRIMSON AND SCARLET: Flash, Tenor. SUNSET RED: Charles Curtis, Bright Eyes (darker eye), Signal. CHERRY RED: Augusta, Chieftain (deep crimson, non-fading)

PHLOX AT RIGHT—medium pink, below, Africa; light pink, Daily Sketch and red, at top, Leo Schlageter.

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Tropical water lilies lend an exotic flavor to the garden pool. With blues and purples as well as the yellows, whites and pinks found in hardy water lilies, the tropicals have much to offer. There are also night as well as day blooming forms. A story appears in this issue on the use on terraces of water lilies and lotus in raised bowls and in tubs